

## **Biography**

Pamela D. Stevenson, JD  
Colonel (retired), United States Air Force

Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Bachelor of Science  
Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Doctor of Jurisprudence

Colonel (retired) Pamela Stevenson has been a public servant all of her life. As a teenager, she opened a ballet school in West Louisville, because there were none and as an adult she serves on boards, projects and organizations across the city. She is passionate about ensuring access to the legal system that empowers people to live their best lives and building strong families. She excels at leading, lawyering, creating and mentoring. Throughout her career, she has prepared lawyers and paralegals for global leadership and practice, led large complex organizations and developed win-win community partnerships. She is committed to providing extraordinary service to staff members and clients, while maintaining an atmosphere that promotes thinking, leading and collaborating. She has demonstrated instinctive interpersonal skills, good judgment, and the ability to communicate effectively to a variety of constituencies; from janitors to foreign dignitaries and from national and local leaders to boards of trustees. She loves to work hard, laugh and ensure that a profound difference is made for Kentucky.



Mrs. Stevenson was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky. After graduating from Brown High School, she accepted a four year ROTC scholarship at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana. In 1981, she completed her Bachelor of Science in business (finance) and was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force. The Air Force selected her to attend law school and in 1984, she graduated from law school and entered active duty.

Her first assignment, as a lieutenant, was as an adjutant in a fighter squadron and then as the Commander of the maintenance squadron section. In 1986, she began her legal service in Southern California as the Chief of Civil Law. In this capacity, she provided free legal assistance to military members on George Air Force Base and was responsible for civil law matters. After this assignment, she was selected to be a criminal defense attorney in Northern California. She litigated criminal cases and represented clients in administrative matters and criminal appeals for almost 2 years before she was selected to be the Chief Commissioner of the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, Washington DC. As the Chief Commissioner, she supervised court personnel and served as the honors law clerk for Chief Judge O'Brien.

In 1992, she began practicing international law when she was transferred to Wiesbaden Germany as the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate at Lindsey Air Base (AB). As the Deputy, she was the Chief Prosecutor and supervised the legal office staff. When Lindsey AB closed in 1993, she was transferred to Lakenheath, United Kingdom where she was second in charge of a larger office and the Chief Prosecutor. As Chief Prosecutor at Lakenheath RAF, she deployed to Croatia, Former Republic of Yugoslavia, to serve as the legal advisor to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force, Operation Provide Promise. In this capacity, she brokered an agreement that avoided an international incident that would have stopped the flow of aid into refugee camps. In addition, she also coordinated with multiple international agencies, in different countries to transfer a major combat hospital and 151 medical personnel from Bosnia theater to 31 U.S. cities. In 1996, she was selected to serve as a law instructor at the Judge Advocate General's School, Montgomery, AL. She taught civil law, family law, leadership and ethics to lawyers and clients. She created legal programs to empower clients.

In 1998, Mrs. Stevenson, was chosen to be the Deputy General Counsel for Air University. She supervised the day to day operations of the legal office, worked with the unions, helped the colleges compete

for accreditation, administer discipline and develop academic policy, while providing guidance to subordinate legal offices. In 2000, she deployed a second time to the Middle East and served as the United States Liaison to the Kuwaiti Military and the Legal Advisor to the Commander.

In 2001, she was assigned to Randolph AFB, San Antonio, TX, where she served as the Staff Judge Advocate (senior attorney). She was responsible for leading 23 attorneys, paralegals and staff members, as they provided a full range of legal services from military justice and administrative processes, to employment, fiscal contracting and civil law. The cornerstone of her success was developing relationships with people at all levels and in a multitude of communities. She was promoted to the rank of Colonel in June 2003.

Mrs. Stevenson assumed duty as Chief of Civil Law for Air Combat Command in 2003 and was responsible for the civil law policy for legal offices that were located across the United States. In 2005, she was chosen to be the Director, Legal Information Services, where she supervised 50 professionals, administered a budget of over five million dollars and collaborated with senior federal government officials on behalf of the Air Force Judge Advocate General. For her final assignment, she was selected as one of ten Deputy General Counsels of a Combatant Command. She served at US TRANSPORTATION COMMAND, Illinois.

Mrs. Stevenson recently retired from the United States Air Force, after achieving the rank of Colonel. Her career as a senior attorney in an institution of 3,399 professionals, has prepared her to lead and provide excellent legal services to the underserved. Throughout her 27 year career, she provided free legal services to military members and programming to equip and empower military members and their families. As a senior officer, she successfully led complex administrative divisions, provided global leadership for attorneys, paralegals and administrative staff and gained an international perspective from living or working in 11 countries.

Her national and international experiences have uniquely prepared Pamela to have a positive impact in Kentucky. In particular, she has experience negotiating in multi-cultural environments, managing a multi-million dollar budget, responding effectively to congressional inquiries, teaching litigation, leadership and family law, gathering data and filing governmental compliance reports, representing the United States with foreign governments, militaries and businesses, recruiting law students, developing powerful partnerships, implementing strategic plans and mentoring staff. Other poignant experiences that demonstrate a finesse for developing powerful and fruitful relationships, include teambuilding in the Middle East, fact finding for 9-11 commissioners and resolving the most sensitive of people issues.

Faith, family and friends is her mantra. While she has extensive leadership experience mentoring lawyers, equipping clients, and successfully moving groups with diverse opinions towards a common goal, what her CV does not show easily is her passion for developing strong families and leading her community to a new level.

A catalyst for social change, she is active in local, regional and national communities. Examples include; **American Bar Association** (Access to Justice committees); **ABA Law Fellow** (member, legal research for ABA); **Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center** (healthcare for the poor), Chair of the Board; **Plymouth Settlement House** (providing for the needs of poor), Board Member; **Personal Counseling Services** (mental health services for the underserved), Board Member; **Where Opportunity Knox** (a Kentucky and Indiana partnership to find employment for veterans), Board Member; **NABVETS** (helping veterans transition into local communities), Advisor; **DAV** (serving disabled veterans), Executive Committee Chair; **OneWest** (fostering economic development for West Louisville), Bingham Fellow Founding Member; and **Kentucky Veterans Advisory Board** (serving Kentucky's veterans), Governor Appointment.

Mrs. Stevenson has been married to Thomas F. Shannon for 33 years. They have two adult children, Tamay, Wellesley '05, a small business owner in Atlanta, GA and Thomas, Oberlin '09, who speaks fluent mandarin and has worked primarily in China. A quilter, animal lover and bird watcher, she also treasures her dog, rabbit and a grand dog.